

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verify believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: DIFFRACTION GRATING BODY, OPTICAL PICK-UP, SEMICONDUCTOR LASER APPARATUS AND OPTICAL INFORMATION APPARATUS

The specification of which

a. is attached hereto
 b. was filed on November 13, 2001 as application serial no. 10/010,721 and was amended on (if applicable) (in the case of a PCT-filed application) described and claimed in international no. filed and as amended on (if any), which I have reviewed and for which I solicit a United States patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

a. no such applications have been filed.
 b. such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC § 119

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)
Japan	2000-349344	November 16, 2000	

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (Day, Month, Year)

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 (reprinted below):

§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim;
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
 - (1) Each inventor named in the application;
 - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
 - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.
- (e) In any continuation-in-part application, the duty under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby appoint the following attorney and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

Albrecht, John W.	Reg. No. 40,481	Leonard, Christopher J.	Reg. No. 41,940
Ali, M. Jeffer	Reg. No. 46,359	Liepa, Mara E.	Reg. No. 40,066
Altera, Allan G.	Reg. No. 40,274	Lindquist, Timothy A.	Reg. No. 40,701
Anderson, Gregg I.	Reg. No. 28,828	Lown, Jean A.	Reg. No. 48,428
Batzli, Brian H.	Reg. No. 32,960	Mayfield, Denise L.	Reg. No. 33,732
Beard, John L.	Reg. No. 27,612	McDonald, Daniel W.	Reg. No. 32,044
Berns, John M.	Reg. No. 43,496	McIntyre, Jr., William F.	Reg. No. 44,921
Branch, John W.	Reg. No. 41,633	Mitchem, M. Todd	Reg. No. 40,731
Brown, Jeffrey C.	Reg. No. 41,643	Mueller, Douglas P.	Reg. No. 30,300
Bruess, Steven C.	Reg. No. 34,130	Nelson, Anna M.	Reg. No. 48,935
Byrne, Linda M.	Reg. No. 32,404	Paley, Kenneth B.	Reg. No. 38,989
Campbell, Keith	Reg. No. 46,597	Parsons, Nancy J.	Reg. No. 40,364
Carlson, Alan G.	Reg. No. 25,959	Pauly, Daniel M.	Reg. No. 40,123
Caspers, Philip P.	Reg. No. 33,227	Phillips, John B.	Reg. No. 37,206
Clifford, John A.	Reg. No. 30,247	Pino, Mark J.	Reg. No. 43,858
Cook, Jeffrey	Reg. No. P-48,649	Prendergast, Paul	Reg. No. 46,068
Daignault, Ronald A.	Reg. No. 25,968	Pytel, Melissa J.	Reg. No. 41,512
Daley, Dennis R.	Reg. No. 34,994	Qualey, Terry	Reg. No. 25,148
Daulton, Julie R.	Reg. No. 36,414	Reich, John C.	Reg. No. 37,703
DeVries Smith, Katherine M.	Reg. No. 42,157	Reiland, Earl D.	Reg. No. 25,767
DiPietro, Mark J.	Reg. No. 28,707	Samuels, Lisa A.	Reg. No. 43,080
Doscotch, Matthew A.	Reg. No. P-48,957	Schmaltz, David G.	Reg. No. 39,828
Edell, Robert T.	Reg. No. 20,187	Schuman, Mark D.	Reg. No. 31,197
Epp Ryan, Sandra	Reg. No. 39,667	Schumann, Michael D.	Reg. No. 30,422
Glance, Robert J.	Reg. No. 40,620	Scull, Timothy B.	Reg. No. 42,137
Geff, Jared S.	Reg. No. 44,716	Sebald, Gregory A.	Reg. No. 33,280
Gögglin, Matthew J.	Reg. No. 44,125	Skoog, Mark T.	Reg. No. 40,178
Gella, Charles E.	Reg. No. 26,896	Spellman, Steven J.	Reg. No. 45,124
German, Alan G.	Reg. No. 38,472	Stewart, Alan R.	Reg. No. 47,974
Gould, John D.	Reg. No. 18,223	Stoll-DeBell, Kirstin L.	Reg. No. 43,164
Gregson, Richard	Reg. No. 41,804	Sullivan, Timothy	Reg. No. 47,981
Gresens, John J.	Reg. No. 33,112	Sumner, John P.	Reg. No. 29,114
Hanner, Samuel A.	Reg. No. 46,754	Swenson, Erik G.	Reg. No. 45,147
Hannre, Curtis B.	Reg. No. 29,165	Tellekson, David K.	Reg. No. 32,314
Harrison, Kevin C.	Reg. No. 46,759	Trembath, Jon R.	Reg. No. 38,344
Hertzberg, Brett A.	Reg. No. 42,660	Tunheim, Marcia A.	Reg. No. 42,189
Hilson, Randall A.	Reg. No. 31,838	Underhill, Albert L.	Reg. No. 27,403
Hölzer, Jr., Richard J.	Reg. No. 42,668	Vandenburgh, J. Derek	Reg. No. 32,179
Hope, Leonard J.	Reg. No. 44,774	Wahl, John R.	Reg. No. 33,044
Jardine, John S.	Reg. No. P-48,835	Weaver, Paul L.	Reg. No. P-48,640
Johns, Nicholas P.	Reg. No. 48,995	Welter, Paul A.	Reg. No. 20,890
Johnston, Scott W.	Reg. No. 39,721	Whipps, Brian	Reg. No. 43,261
Kadievitch, Natalie D.	Reg. No. 34,196	Whitaker, John E.	Reg. No. 42,222
Kaseburg, Frederick A.	Reg. No. 47,695	Wier, David D.	Reg. No. P-48,229
Kettelberger, Denise	Reg. No. 33,924	Williams, Douglas J.	Reg. No. 27,054
Keys, Jeramie J.	Reg. No. 42,724	Withers, James D.	Reg. No. 40,376
Knearl, Homer L.	Reg. No. 21,197	Witt, Jonelle	Reg. No. 41,980
Kowalchyk, Alan W.	Reg. No. 31,535	Wu, Tong	Reg. No. 43,361
Kowalchyk, Katherine M.	Reg. No. 36,848	Young, Thomas	Reg. No. 25,796
Lacy, Paul E.	Reg. No. 38,946	Zeuli, Anthony R.	Reg. No. 45,255
Larson, James A.	Reg. No. 40,443		

I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/ organization who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Merchant & Gould P.C. to the contrary.

I understand that the execution of this document, and the grant of a power of attorney, does not in itself establish an attorney-client relationship between the undersigned and the law firm Merchant & Gould P.C., or any of its attorneys.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to Merchant & Gould P.C. at the address indicated below:

Merchant & Gould P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903



I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

2	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name KOMMA	First Given Name Yoshiaki	Second Given Name
0	Residence & Citizenship	City Osaka	State or Foreign Country Japan	Country of Citizenship Japan
1	Mailing Address	Address 1-36-7, Kuzuha-Mentori-cho, Hirakata-shi	City Osaka	State & Zip Code/Country 573-1113 Japan

Signature of Inventor 201: *Yoshiaki Komma* Date: Y.K. *Yoshiaki* March 7, 2002

2	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name NISHINO	First Given Name Seiji	Second Given Name
0	Residence & Citizenship	City Osaka	State or Foreign Country Japan	Country of Citizenship Japan
2	Mailing Address	Address 11-15, Kitabatake 2-chome, Abeno-ku, Osaka-shi	City Osaka	State & Zip Code/Country 545-0035 Japan

Signature of Inventor 202: *Seiji Nishino* Date: March 8, 2002.

2	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name WADA	First Given Name Hidenori	Second Given Name
0	Residence & Citizenship	City Kyoto	State or Foreign Country Japan	Country of Citizenship Japan
3	Mailing Address	Address 303, Demyuzu-Kohata, 48, Kohata-Nishiura, Uji-shi	City Kyoto	State & Zip Code/Country 611-0002 Japan

Signature of Inventor 203: *Hidenori Wada* Date: March 7, 2002

2	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name SHIONO	First Given Name Teruhiro	Second Given Name
0	Residence & Citizenship	City Osaka	State or Foreign Country Japan	Country of Citizenship Japan
4	Mailing Address	Address 2-50, Nagayoshi-Rokutan 4-chome, Hirano-ku, Osaka-shi	City Osaka	State & Zip Code/Country 547-0012 Japan

Signature of Inventor 204: *Teruhiro Shiono* Date: March 8, 2002

2	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name MIZUNO	First Given Name Sadao	Second Given Name
0	Residence & Citizenship	City Osaka	State or Foreign Country Japan	
5	Mailing Address	Address 2-22-10, Shirakawa, Ibaraki-shi	City Osaka	Country of Citizenship Japan
Signature of Inventor 205: <i>Sadao Mizuno</i>			Date:	March 11, 2002
2	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name SHIROIWA	First Given Name Hiroshi	Second Given Name
0	Residence & Citizenship	City Kyoto	State or Foreign Country Japan	
6	Mailing Address	Address 525-8-510, Kuze-Oyabu-cho, Minami-ku, Kyoto-shi	City Kyoto	Country of Citizenship Japan
Signature of Inventor 206: <i>Hiroshi Shiroiwa</i>			Date:	March 11, 2002